

Without an Open Internet ISPs can prioritize what services load fast and slow based on payments to the ISP. Early on in President Obama's first term Comcast approached Netflix saying they wanted Netflix to pay them interconnection fees – and in return Comcast won't slow down Comcast customers access to Netflix's Watch Now streaming service. At the time Netflix refused to give in to Comcast's extortion and didn't need to since Comcast was just a regional service provider of cable TV and broadband Internet access. Since then Comcast has become more powerful a player in the content business by first acquiring NBC Universal and now pushing its proposed takeover of Time Warner Cable which would make Comcast a national provider of nationwide cable TV and high-speed Internet service. As a result Netflix has now grudgingly agreed to pay Comcast's extortion, not by choice but felt obligated to do so especially in light of the recent and unfortunate D.C. Circuit ruling in Verizon's favor striking down Network Neutrality.

The court did not find Network Neutrality unconstitutional or illegal they just said the legal argument the FCC made on behalf of it was the wrong argument. If the FCC is to regulate ISPs they need to reclassify broadband as a common carrier or utility service under Title II of the Telecommunications Act. If reports of a streaming deal between Apple and Comcast are also true (in this case a Comcast app would be put on Apple TV for Comcast TV subscribers and use Comcast's sign-in system (Apple and Comcast have been debating which to use Apple's electronic sign-in or Comcast's) then Comcast is yet again violating Net Neutrality. Please stop this deal and reclassify broadband as a utility.